

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING RESTORATION OF
UTAH LAKE**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Mike K. McKell

Senate Sponsor: Deidre M. Henderson

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution addresses the condition of Utah Lake.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- urges speedy and comprehensive solutions to restore Utah Lake and improve its water quality;
- emphasizes removing invasive plant species, restoring littoral zone plant communities, and restoring native plant species on Utah Lake's shoreline; and
- seeks to ensure recreational opportunities on Utah Lake.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, the state of Utah is committed to conserving Utah Lake, restoring Utah Lake's water quality, improving habitat for fish and wildlife, and enhancing recreational opportunities for Utah's citizens;

WHEREAS, Utah Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the state of Utah;

WHEREAS, Utah Lake has an extensive shoreline, offers prime recreational opportunities, and serves a vital water storage and supply function to residents of the Wasatch Front, which includes Utah County and Salt Lake County;

WHEREAS, multiple factors have presented significant challenges to Utah Lake,

including algal blooms, loss of native vegetation, invasive fish and plant species, loss of littoral zone plants, suspended silt on the lake bottom, and reduced water clarity;

WHEREAS, the state of Utah has begun experimental restoration of various aspects of Utah Lake, including removing invasive phragmites, removing non-native carp, restoring the native June sucker, and other efforts, to improve water quality through partnerships between the Department of Natural Resources, the Division of Wildlife Resources, the Division of Water Quality, and the Utah Lake Commission;

WHEREAS, more comprehensive and extensive restoration investment, planning, and implementation are needed to address the issues facing Utah Lake; and

WHEREAS, the state of Utah is committed to work in collaboration with local stakeholders to speed the restoration of Utah Lake for the benefit of aquatic species, wildlife, and Utah's citizens:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, urges an acceleration of comprehensive solutions to restore Utah Lake and improve its water quality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge solutions to address challenges to Utah Lake, including water clarity, water quality, invasive species, and preserving the storage and water supply functions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge solutions to restore a vibrant fishery, including restoring the Bonneville cutthroat trout population and recovering the June sucker, while improving habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife species.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge solutions to remove invasive plant species, restore littoral zone plant communities, and restore native plant species on Utah Lake's shoreline should be accelerated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge solutions to maximize and ensure recreational access and opportunities on Utah Lake, while also improving the use of the lake for Utah and its citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the

58 Department of Natural Resources, the Division of Wildlife Resources, the Division of Water
59 Quality, and the Utah Lake Commission, to encourage pursuit of all reasonably available
60 solutions to accelerate comprehensive and lasting restoration of Utah Lake.